

b. a natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer; and

c. a cross-linking agent for cross-linking said synthetic polymer and said associated natural organic material, said cross-linking agent being compatible with live entities, said cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of: sodium borate, sodium metaborate, sodium tetraborate, hydrated sodium borate, hydrated sodium metaborate, hydrated sodium tetraborate, magnesium sulfate, molybdenum sulfate, and sodium molybdate, and an effective amount of water to produce a pumpable composition of said synthetic polymer, said associated natural organic material and said cross-linking agent.

41(new): The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 80% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 75% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 15% by weight.

42(new): The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 10% to 60% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 15% to 45% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 1% to 10% by weight.

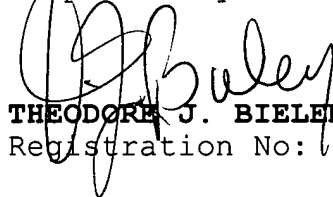
43(new): The tackifier of claim 40 in which said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 50% to 65% by weight, said natural organic material associated with said synthetic polymer is present in an amount from 25% to 35% by weight, and said cross-linking agent is present in an amount from 8% to 12%, by weight.

44(new): The tackifier of claim 40 in which said natural organic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of: cornstarch, rice starch, wheat starch, potato starch, polysaccharides, mint, animal gelatin, plant seed husks, corn gluten, natural latex, guar gum, psyllium, mucilage, and kelp.

45(new): The tackifier of claim 40 which additionally consists essentially of a surfactant present in an amount ranging between a trace amount and about 1% by weight.

46(new): The tackifier of claim 40 which additionally includes of a fiber to form a slurry.

Respectfully submitted,



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